NOAA, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE

Miami, Florida 33165

http://weather.gov/southflorida

2013 RAINY SEASON OUTLOOK

"Near-Normal" Rainy Season Anticipated

May 16, 2013: The upcoming South Florida rainy season looks to be near normal as far as precipitation is concerned, along with the likelihood of near to warmer-than-normal temperatures.

Despite a few wet and stormy periods over the past few weeks, current indications suggest that the rainy season may not begin until this weekend or even next week due to the unusually dry air mass in place across Florida this week associated with the cold front which moved through the area this past Monday night.

The outlook of near-normal precipitation is based primarily on the lack of strong atmospheric signals. The presence of El Niño or La Niña can influence large-scale weather patterns which affect summer rainfall across South Florida, but this year's anticipated "neutral ENSO" (El Niño/Southern Oscillation) means that summer weather patterns may be largely determined by changes occurring over a shorter time scale, thus making long-range precipitation and temperature predictions quite difficult.

Nevertheless, a "near-normal" wet season should lead to a decent amount of rainfall across the area. Average wet season rainfall ranges anywhere from 35 to 45 inches, usually highest along interior suburbs of east and west coasts and lowest over coastal areas along both the Atlantic and Gulf coast. With the lack of well-defined weather patterns, rainfall tends to be highly variable from one location to the next. Normally it takes at least one or two organized, large-scale weather

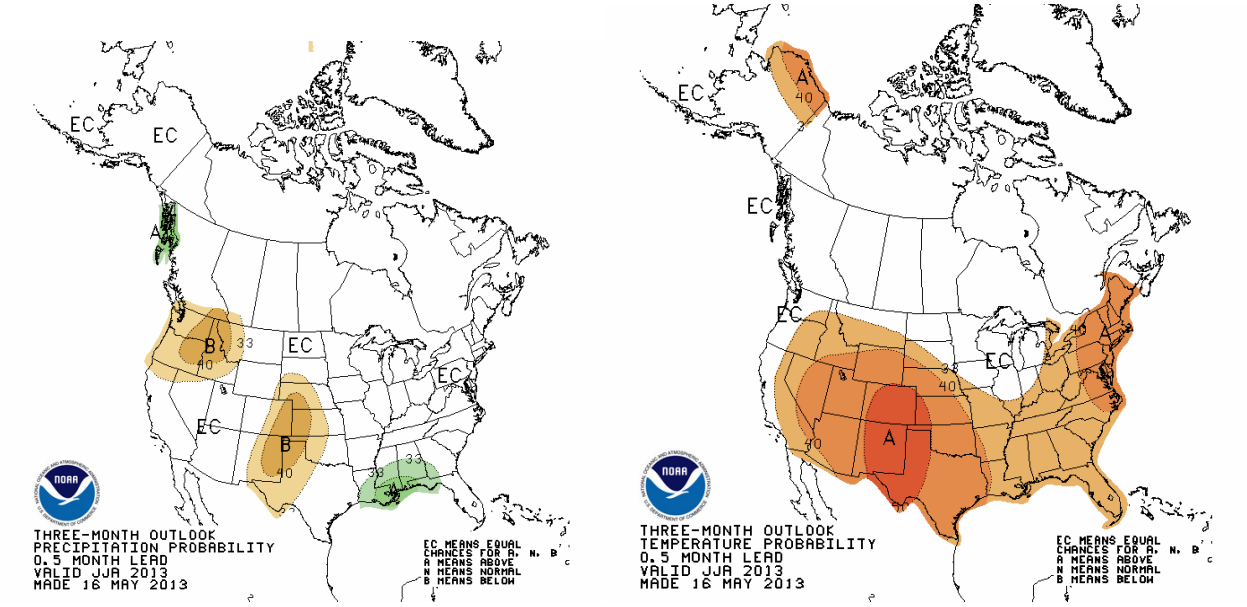
systems (such as tropical waves, disturbances or tropical storms/hurricanes) to provide high rainfall amounts over a large area.

The rainy season usually has three phases:

- Late May through early July ("stormiest" part of the season).

- Early July through mid-August (hotter with dry periods).

- Late August through mid-October (higher rainfall variability due to potential tropical systems and early-fall cold fronts).

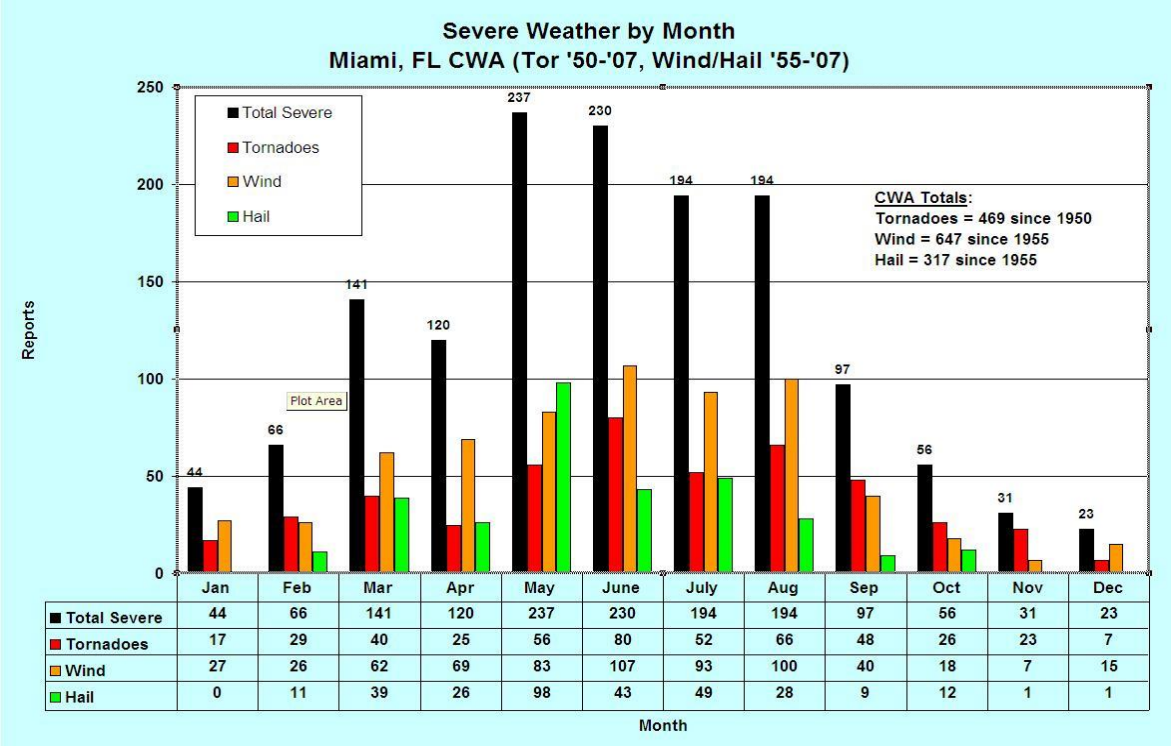


NOAA's Climate Prediction Center precipitation and temperature outlooks for June-August 2013.

Weather Hazards

Weather hazards associated with the rainy season include lightning, gusty winds, flooding, hail and even tornadoes. May to August is the period when most of South Florida's severe weather (flooding, large hail, tornadoes and strong winds) takes place. Also, rip currents are common due to the persistent onshore winds.

These hazards do not include impacts from any tropical systems that can affect South Florida, particularly during the peak months of August, September and October.



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Severe	44	66	141	120	237	230	194	194	97	56	31	23
Tornadoes	17	29	40	25	56	80	52	66	48	26	23	7
Wind	27	26	62	69	83	107	93	100	40	18	7	15
Hail	0	11	39	26	98	43	49	28	9	12	1	1

Please visit http://weather.gov/southflorida for daily forecasts and severe weather warnings and outlooks.

Definition of the South Florida Rainy Season

The South Florida rainy season is defined as the time of year when most of the yearly rainfall occurs. The median start date of the rainy season is May 20th and the median end date is October 17th. During this nearly five-month period, South Florida receives about 70% of the rainfall for the entire year. The start date of the rainy season varies from year to year and is largely determined by the onset and almost daily persistence of daily showers and thunderstorms over the Florida peninsula. This is typically accompanied by an increase in humidity reflected in higher surface dewpoints (water-to-air saturation temperature which is associated with relative humidity), with persistent dewpoint values above 70F a decent indicator. Some years, the rainy season begins abruptly and triggered by a large-scale weather system such as low pressure systems near or over Florida. Other years, the onset can be quite subtle and dependent on gradual wind shifts and weather pattern changes which can take weeks to develop. Therefore, the beginning of the rainy season is usually a transition period rather than a sharp onset date.